

Eliphalet H. Turner House  
Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan

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HABS<sup>V</sup> 27-12  
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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. 27

Historic American Buildings Survey.  
Branson V. Gambler, District Officer  
3500 Union Guardian Bldg., Detroit, Michigan.

ADDED-94  
FOLIO 135

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

District #27 - 12

April 28, 1934.

ELIPHALET H. TURNER HOUSE

SOUTH WEST CORNER OF FRONT AND SIXTH STREETS,  
GRAND RAPIDS, KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

HISTORICAL:

Built in 1846 by Gideon Colton, builder, for Eliphalet H. Turner. Was the first stone house of note built on the west side of the river. Material of exterior walls and main bearing walls is lime stone taken from the bed of Grand River, known locally as "river stone." This is a soft stone of pleasing gray and buff color. There are no fireplaces in the house. The two central chimneys of brick are original as shown by engraving in Baxter's History of Grand Rapids.

The house was purchased from the Turner family in 1895 by William Patton whose widow still resides there. Mr. Patton was a glass cutter and he removed the old cut-up sash substituting single lights. He also removed the blinds which are shown on the picture of the house in Baxter's History as existing at that date 1891. At the death of Mr. Patton, the rear one story portion of the original house was raised to two stories with shingled exterior walls. The North entrance door and stair were added at this time.

A unique feature of the interior is the stair hand rail which terminates over the newel in the carved form of a man's hand. There is embedded in the wood at that point, a sterling silver plate, bearing the engraving "G. Colton, Builder" The stair parts are made of red cherry.

REFERENCES:

Baxter's History of Grand Rapids, 1891.  
Mrs. Phoebe Patton, present owner and occupant.

Warren L. Rindge,  
H.A.B.S. - Member.

*Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.*

Addendum to  
Eliphalet H. Turner House  
731 Front Avenue, N.W.  
Grand Rapids  
Kent County  
Michigan

HABS No. MI-27-12

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PHOTOGRAPHS

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Michigan	COUNTY Kent	TOWN OR VICINITY Grand Rapids
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Eliphalet H. Turner House		HABS NO. MI-27-12
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 731 Front Avenue N.W.		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1846	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Gideon Colton	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) A mid-19th century town house of Greek Revival type with an exceptionally fine entrance and a unique stair rail.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Stone		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangular with rear wing, 2 stories, main wing -- 28' 5" x 34'		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Ashlar limestone exterior walls, 2 story porch on south side of rear wing, main entrance (recessed) has two Greek Ionic columns, gable roof		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Chimney centered on the main part of the house was removed after 1934.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.)		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Melissa McDonald HABS Historian		DATE 8-5-83